

**A RED
GATE?!**

...MISTER,
WHAT'S A RED
GATE?

A SPECIAL
GATE THAT CONNECTS
US TO ANOTHER
DIMENSION.

ONCE YOU STEP FOOT
INSIDE A RED GATE, YOU
BECOME COMPLETELY CUT
OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE
WORLD, WHICH MEANS WE
WON'T BE ABLE TO
GET ANY HELP.

THERE'S NO
ESCAPING UNLESS
THE BOSS IS DEFEATED,
OR A DUNGEON BREAK
OCCURS.

**IN OTHER
WORDS, WE'RE
STRANDED
HERE.**



Solo Leveling


Art · DUBU (REDICE STUDIO)
Original Novel · Chugong
Story · h-goon

49

LET
ME INTRODUCE
MYSELF AGAIN.

MY NAME
IS KIM CHUL, AND
I'M AN A-RANK.





NOW THAT
EVERYONE KNOWS
WE'VE ENTERED A RED
GATE, I'LL SEE TO IT
THAT WE MAKE A
SAFE RETURN!



A group of about ten adventurers, including men and women in various armor and clothing, stand in a snowy mountain landscape. In the foreground, a large, jagged, orange-red rock formation with a circular hole is visible. The background shows snow-covered peaks under a blue sky.

**BUT I'M NOT GOING
TO STAND HERE AND
MAKE PROMISES
I CAN'T KEEP.**

**WE'LL
HAVE TO WAIT MANY
MONTHS FOR A DUNGEON
BREAK TO OCCUR, SO
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE
ALL OF US WILL BE
ABLE TO SURVIVE
UNTIL THEN.**

**THE MINIMUM
DIFFICULTY LEVEL
OF A RED GATE
IS B-RANK.**

**IN A PLACE AS
DANGEROUS AS THIS,
IT'LL BE DIFFICULT TO
MANAGE ALL OF YOU
AS A SINGLE UNIT...**

**...WHICH IS WHY
I'M GOING TO FORM
A SEPARATE TEAM
TO CLEAR THE
DUNGEON WITH ME.**



A close-up of a young man with short black hair and blue eyes. He has a serious expression. To his left, there are orange and yellow energy spikes or flames. Below him is a small circular speech bubble.

WHAT?!

**IF WE STAY HERE,
WE'LL EITHER
FREEZE TO DEATH
OR BE AMBUSHED
BY THOSE ICE
CREATURES
AGAIN.**

**EVEN IF NOBODY
WANTS TO JOIN MY
TEAM, I'LL GET OUT OF
HERE BY CLEARING THIS
DUNGEON BY MYSELF.**

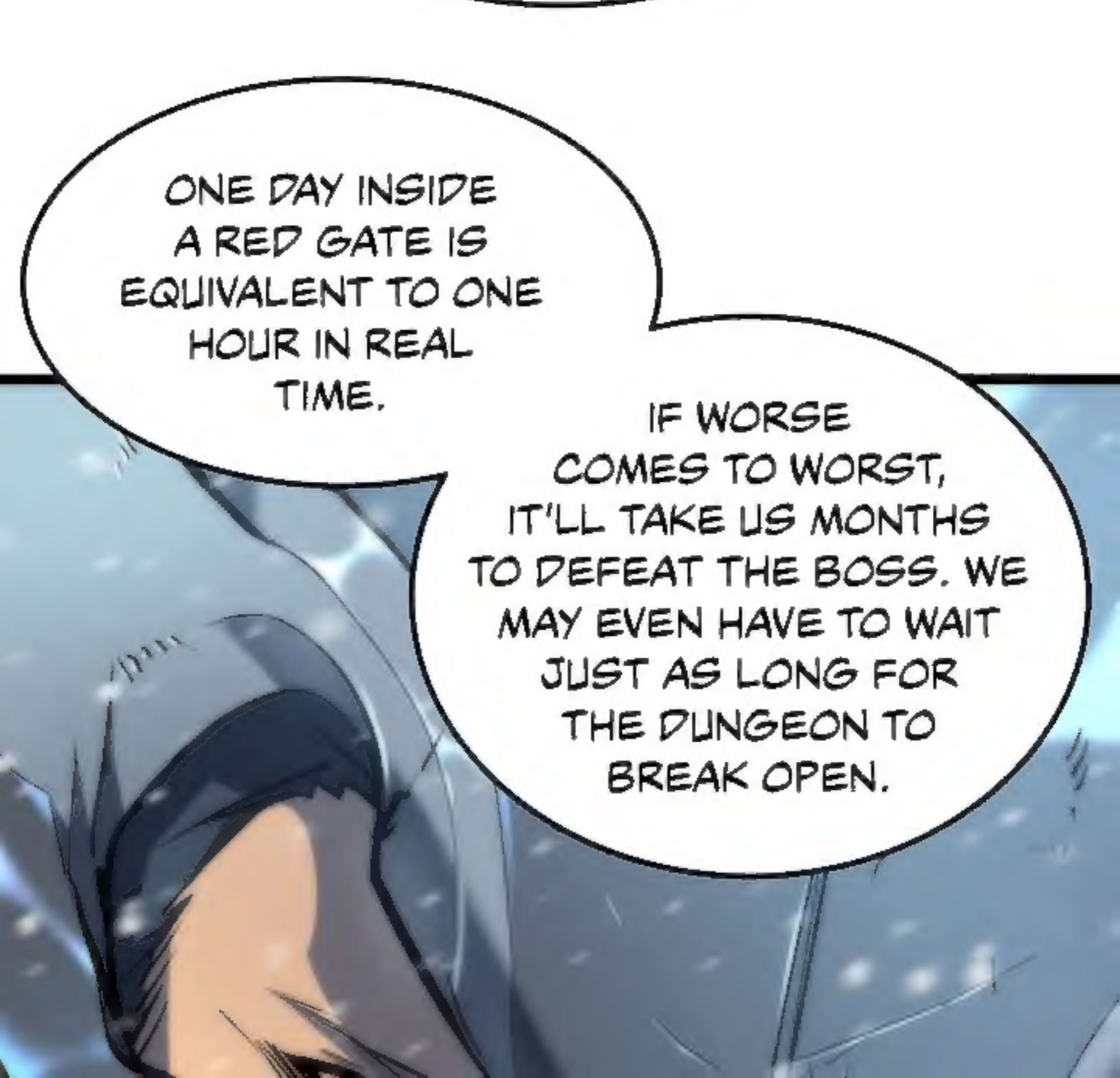


**WHO'S
WITH ME?**

**I'LL GO
WITH YOU.**

**COUNT
ME IN.**

THOSE GUYS HAVE
A BETTER CHANCE
OF SURVIVAL IF THEY
JOIN FORCES WITH AN
A-RANK HUNTER.





UNDER THESE
CIRCUMSTANCES,
I CAN'T AFFORD TO
BRING ALONG ANY
DEAD WEIGHT.

DID YOU JUST
CALL US "DEAD
WEIGHT"...?

DON'T BE TOO
UPSET.

IF YOU'RE
STILL ALIVE
WHEN WE DEFEAT
THE BOSS, YOU'LL
BE ABLE TO MAKE
IT OUT OF HERE,
TOO.

BUT STILL...

EXCUSE
ME.





WOULD IT BE
OKAY IF I WENT
WITH THOSE GUYS
INSTEAD?



...AS YOU
PLEASE.

I'M AN
A-RANK, BUT SHE
WANTS TO GO WITH
THEM INSTEAD?

DOES SHE
FEEL BAD FOR
THEM...?

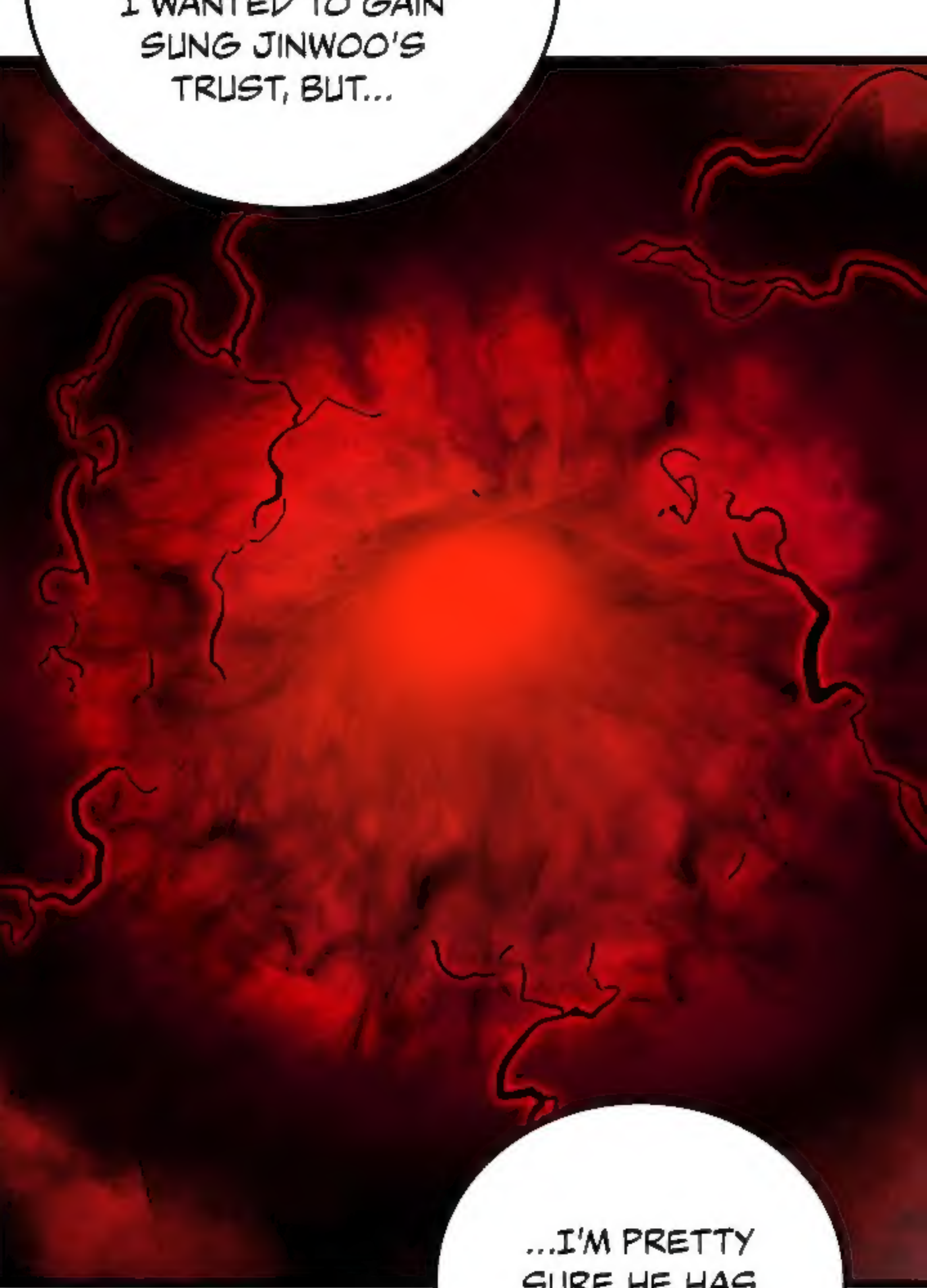
WHAT'S WITH
THIS WOMAN?



NOW THAT
A SPOT ON MY TEAM
HAS OPENED UP, I'M
WILLING TO TAKE ONE
MORE PERSON.
JUST ONE.

*M, ME!
I'LL GO WITH
YOU.*





I'VE BEEN
KEEPING THIS
A SECRET BECAUSE
I WANTED TO GAIN
SUNG JINWOO'S
TRUST, BUT...

...I'M PRETTY
SURE HE HAS
REAWAKENED.

ARE YOU
POSITIVE?

ARE YOU SURE
IT'S NOT JUST
SPECULATION?

HE
NEVER GAVE
ME A CLEAR
ANSWER...

WELL,
YES, IT'S JUST
MY GUESS FOR
NOW...



A man in a dark suit with a sword on his back is shown from the waist up, looking towards the right. The background is a dark, textured red.

HE'S HAD
AN EXCELLENT
PERFORMANCE
RECORD.

HIS
FIGHTING ABILITIES
ARE COMPARABLE TO
THOSE OF THE WHITE
TIGER GUILD'S MOST
SEASONED STRIKE
SQUAD MEMBERS.

THAT'S GOOD
TO HEAR.


KIM CHUL IS AN
A-RANK HUNTER.

EVEN WHEN
WEIGHED AGAINST OTHER
HIGHER-RANKING HUNTERS,
HE'S A TALENT WE CAN'T
AFFORD TO LOSE.

HOPEFULLY, AS THE
LEADER OF THE STRIKE SQUAD,
HE'LL BE ABLE TO COMMAND
THE B-RANK HUNTERS AND
CLEAR THE DUNGEON!

I COULDN'T HELP BUT
OVERHEAR... YOU SAID
SOMETHING ABOUT AN
E-RANK HUNTER...

...THAT
MIGHT'VE BEEN
REAWAKENED,
YES?




IN MY OPINION,
KIM CHUL IS MILES
MORE QUALIFIED THAN
SOME NAMELESS,
INEXPERIENCED
HUNTER.

WE'LL SEE
WHO'S RIGHT IN
THE END...




WHAT THE
HELL? WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE?



I'M PRETTY
SURE THIS WAS
SUPPOSED TO
BE A C-RANK
GATE...

DID AN A-RANK
GATE APPEAR OR
SOMETHING?



WHAT'S A BIG
SHOT FROM THE
WHITE TIGER GUILD
DOING HERE?



HWANG
DONGSOO?!



TH, THAT'S....!!

H, HWANG
DONGSOO!



AN S-RANK
HUNTER FROM THE
SCAVENGER GUILD,
HWANG DONGSOO!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE,
BAEK YOONHO.



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING IN
KOREA...?

MADE A QUICK
VISIT TO TAKE CARE
OF SOME BUSINESS.
NEVER THOUGHT I'D
RUN INTO YOU
HERE.

SMALL
WORLD, EH?



ANSWER MY
QUESTION.

YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO BE
IN THE STATES. WHAT
BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE
IN KOREA? WHAT ARE
YOU DOING ON OUR
TURF?

THE WHITE
TIGER GUILD'S
TURF?

I'D ACTUALLY
LIKE TO ASK YOU
SOMETHING
MYSELF.



DID THAT LAME
HUNTER JOIN THE
WHITE TIGER
GUILD?

WHAT WERE
YOU THINKING,
MAN?



**WHY DID YOU
RECRUIT AN E-RANK
LOSER?**



E-RANK?

WHO ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

I'M TALKING ABOUT
SLUNG JINWOO, WHO
JUST ENTERED
THAT GATE.



**SLUNG
JINWOO?**

HOW DOES
HWANG DONGSOO
KNOW HIM,
TOO?!

WHAT'S
GOING ON OVER
HERE?

IS THIS A...
RED GATE?

THEN...

...LET ME ASK
YOU SOMETHING,
TOO.

YOU GUYS ARE
ALL NEW RECRUITS.



HOW ARE YOU ALL
SO CALM RIGHT
NOW?

BECAUSE THE
VERY FIRST THING WE
LEARN IS, "ANYTHING CAN
HAPPEN INSIDE THE
DUNGEONS."

KIM CHUL
IN PARTICULAR
UNDERWENT SPECIAL
TRAINING,

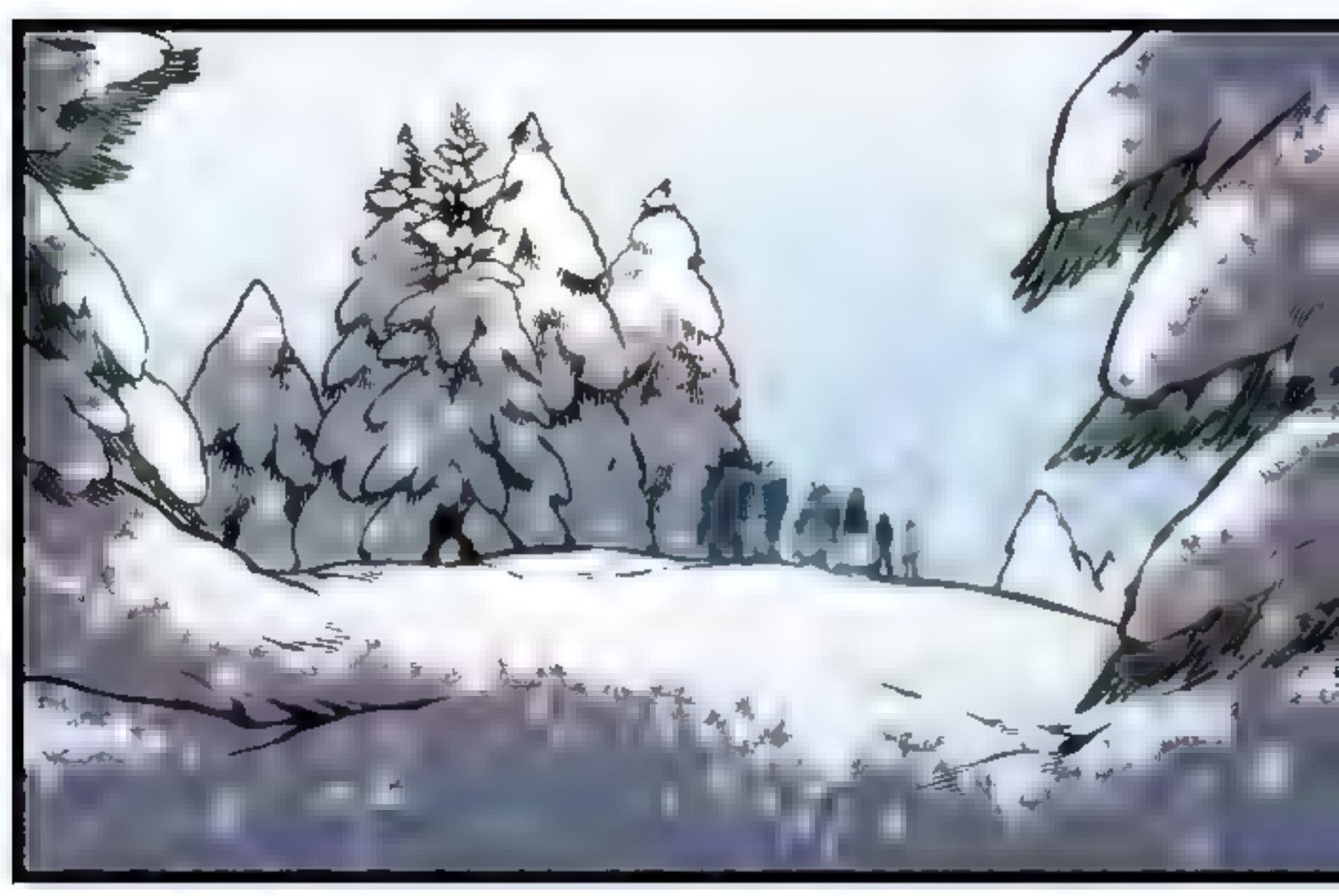
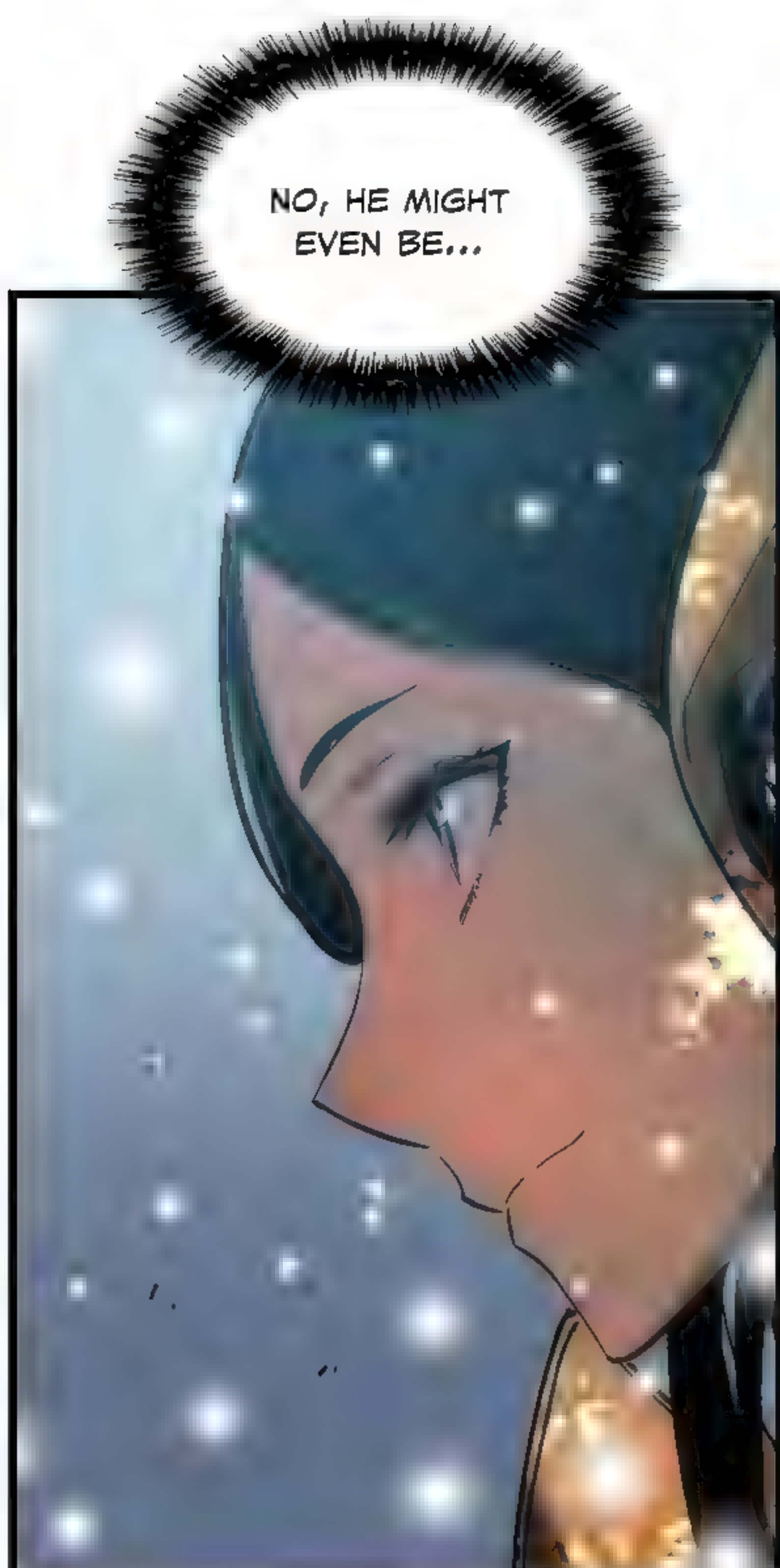
SINCE HE'S SET
TO JOIN THE WHITE
TIGER GUILD'S ELITE
STRIKE SQUAD.

WE'RE GOING
TO FOLLOW THIS
PATH.

WE'LL HEAD
INTO THE FOREST,
THEN.









LOOK OVER
THERE.




TH...THAT'S!

TSK, TSK. THEY
SHOULD'VE JUST
STAYED PUT AND
WAITED HERE.

THE FOREST IS
THE *ICE BEARS'*
TERRITORY.



LOOKS LIKE
INNOCENT LIVES
WILL BE LOST ALL
BECAUSE OF THAT
ONE E-RANK
HUNTER.



WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM AN E-RANKER? HE PROBABLY DIDN'T EVEN RECEIVE PROPER TRAINING.

YOU'RE RIGHT. OF COURSE HE DIDN'T.

...HANG ON.

MOST OF THE MEMBERS ON THAT TEAM ARE C-RANK. THERE WAS EVEN A B-RANK AMONG THEM...

SO WHY ON EARTH DID I THINK HE WAS THE LEADER OF THEIR GROUP?

...WHATEVER.

HE'S AS GOOD AS DEAD.

LET'S JUST

STICK TO OUR
OWN PLAN.

THUD

RAISE

IT'S TIME FOR
BATTLE.

CAN'T BELIEVE
I RAN INTO A RED
GATE AFTER COMING
ALL THIS WAY...

YOU'RE A HARD
MAN TO TRACK DOWN,
SLUNG JINWOO.

!!

*WHY IS EVERYONE
SO FIXATED ON SUNG
JINWOO...?*

To Be Continued...

Solo Leveling

D&C
WEBTOON

Translator: JJoelle

Editor: Michelle Kim